(b) Their numbers sub post office-wise/ Branch post office-wise in each district are furnished in the statement attached.

(c) The Department of Telecommunications has planned to provide telephone facilities in all village Panchayats during 1991-95. These telephones will be located at post offices, panchayat office, Grocer's s'hops or other places with public access.

STATEMENT

District	*Departmental Sub-Office.*	*Extra Departmental Sub-Office.*	*Extra Departmental Branch Office.*
East Sikkim	11	2	2
West Sikkim	2	nil	2
North Sikkim	1	5	nil
South Sikkim	3	nil	1

Freedom Fighters' Pension to Malabar Special Armed Police

6862. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applications for the grant of freedom fighters' pension from the re-trenched Malabar Special Armed Police (MSAP) personnel for disobeying the British orders during freedom movement are still pending; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these applications are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The Malabar Special Armed Police Strike has not been recognised as a part of the national freedom struggle for the purposes of pension under the Central Freedom Fighters' pension Scheme. As such, participants in the said strike are not eligible for pension.

Establishment of Irrigation Development Bank

6863. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the establishment of an Irrigation Development Bank to mobilise resources for speedy completion of on-going irrigation projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). A proposal for setting up of an Irrigation Finance Corporation to provide funds for the expeditious completion of nationally important projects was recommended by the Working Group on Major and Medium irrigation Programme for inclusion in the VIII Plan. The proposal is to provide resources by the Central Government to the Corporation in shape of equity and loans.